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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), by which the Council extended the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) until 30 June 2018 and requested me to report, every 60 days, on its implementation. The report provides an update on and analysis of the conflict, the political situation and the operational environment in Darfur and the main challenges to the effective implementation of the mandate, including violations of the status of forces agreement, for the period from 16 December 2017 until 15 February 2018. It also presents the steps taken by UNAMID towards achieving its benchmarks and provides an update on progress in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the special report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the strategic review of UNAMID (S/2017/437).

II. Conflict analysis

2. The overall security situation has remained stable. While the dry season is coming to mid-point, no major clashes have taken place between the forces of the Government of the Sudan and the Darfur armed groups; the weapons collection campaign proceeded in the Jebel Marra area, while encountering resistance from the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW) elements; tensions increased in some internally displaced persons camps in Central Darfur. The period also witnessed fewer incidents of intercommunal conflicts, banditry and criminality, human rights abuses and cases of harassment, in particular of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. The overall humanitarian situation remained largely unchanged, despite the new displacement of several hundred persons from eastern Jebel Marra, as a result of fighting between two SLA/AW factions. The African Union High-level Implementation Panel-led peace process in Darfur remained stalled, and the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur has been constrained by the lack of capacity and resources, for which the Government is seeking external assistance.

Fighting between the Government of the Sudan forces and armed groups

3. The armed groups of the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) and Justice and the Gibril Ibrahim faction of the Justice and Equality Movement

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(JEM/Gibril) continued to remain largely inactive in Darfur, while the area of operations of SLA/AW continued to be limited to pockets of the Jebel Marra. On 18 January, UNAMID reported clashes between the Rapid Support Force (RSF) and SLA/AW in Kurmul village, north-east of Golo and near Kati village, 15 km south-east of Golo, in the Jebel Marra, during a weapons collection campaign in the area. Reportedly, one RSF officer was reported killed and another injured. On 24 January, RSF clashed in the border village of Kalabah, some 250 km south of Ed Daein, with a group believed to be JEM/Gibril, which entered from South Sudan. RSF reportedly incurred three fatalities. Nonetheless, the rebel movements JEM, SLA/MM and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Transitional Council (SLM/TC) issued a joint statement on 3 February extending their unilateral cessation of hostilities until 30 April, following a presidential decree on 4 January extending the Government's own unilateral ceasefire for three months until the end of March.

Weapons collection campaign and impact on security

4. The Government of the Sudan continued its implementation of the compulsory phase of the weapons collection campaign, including in internally displaced persons camps, and recently moved into the Jebel Marra areas under the control of SLA/AW. Some progress has been registered by Darfur state officials since the beginning of the campaign in August last year. The Wali of North Darfur reported that, out of an estimated 700,000 weapons believed to be in illegal circulation across Darfur, only 30,000 (including 9,000 in North Darfur) had been collected. On 20 December, the South Darfur joint weapons collection committee reported that the total number of weapons collected voluntarily in the state was 8,000, including 1,373 collected from the Popular Defence Forces. The committee further reported that, consequently, the crime rate in South Darfur decreased by 24 per cent, while the incidence of major crimes such as murder, armed robbery and rape decreased by 35 per cent over the period of the collection campaign.

5. According to the mission's assessment, the campaign appears to have constrained various armed militia and criminals from freely using their weapons, thus contributing to an improved overall security situation, especially in North and South Darfur. The leaders of Abu Shouk camp in El Fasher stated that, following the weapons collection campaign in parts of North Darfur, the security situation had improved and some internally displaced persons returned seasonally to their places of origin in Jebel Si in Kabkabiyah locality, in Tila, Hillet Fuocca, Lumbati, Jabalen and Tangarara villages in Korma locality, and Kofod village in El Fasher rural area. Sudan Police sources reported that, in Otash internally displaced persons camp, Nyala, South Darfur, internally displaced persons' leaders handed over 821 weapons during the voluntary phase of the campaign. In the Kalma internally displaced persons camp in South Darfur, the agreement reached between the Government of the Sudan and the leadership of the camp, facilitated by UNAMID, continued to hold. The Government has committed not to forcefully collect weapons without consultation with UNAMID or the leadership of the internally displaced persons. Massalit leaders have also reported returns in the areas around Graida, South Darfur, following the weapons collection campaign in the locality, but they complained about the lack of basic services and infrastructure, and requested decisive measures on land dispute issues.

6. As the campaign moved into internally displaced persons camps, internally displaced persons were reported to have been either physically assaulted or harassed on a number of occasions by RSF during the weapons collection. On 10 January, at the Thur internally displaced persons camp, Central Darfur, RSF reportedly arrested four internally displaced persons. On 11 January, during the weapons collection in North and Straha internally displaced persons camps, Central Darfur, RSF reportedly arrested 8 Fur and 20 Arab sheikhs in order to gather information about persons in

possession of weapons and the hiding places for weapons and motorcycles. While local leaders in Nertiti locality, Central Darfur, expressed support for the weapons collections campaign, they stressed that it should be inclusive in order to also ensure the disarmament of nomadic communities.

Intercommunal conflicts

7. During the reporting period, the number of intercommunal conflicts over land, livestock thefts and farm destructions decreased, and fatalities also decreased to 11 from 45 during the previous reporting period. Several tribal reconciliation initiatives also took place. Most local communities, including internally displaced persons, attributed this trend to the ongoing weapons collection campaign and more resolute intervention from the Government to prevent an escalation of tensions among communities.

8. In South Darfur, clashes took place between the Mahadi and the Birgid in Hash area, 50 km north-east of Graida, on 17 December, which resulted in one fatality on each side. During 2017, the two communities had disputes over land ownership on the border between Graida and Yasin localities. On 18 December, Government forces were deployed to contain the situation and RSF was mandated to disarm the feuding parties. On 21 December, the Sudan Police Force arrested four *umdas* (local tribal leaders) and seven youths from the Mahadi community for their involvement in the incident, and the community leaders are working with the local government towards resolving the dispute.

9. In East Darfur, to replace the buffer zone committee between the Ma'aliva and the Rizeigat that was dissolved in November 2017, the Wali established a joint mechanism on 7 January to regulate agricultural activities and tackle cattle rustling. The mechanism is composed of 14 members with equal representation from both tribes. On 23 January, the Birgid and the Zaghawa, in a ceremony attended by Vice-President Hassabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman, signed a peace agreement in Shearia town, recommending the restitution of Zaghawa properties in Shearia, including shops and houses, allocation of farm lands to Zaghawa returnees and the formation of a mechanism to sustain the return process and the implementation of development programmes, in coordination with the United Nations. On 27 and 28 January, the Vice-President visited Adilla and Abu Karinka, for a reconciliatory meeting between the Ma'aliva and the Rizeigat, and made a commitment to implement several development projects related to health, education and infrastructure in the area.

Violence against civilians and human rights violations

10. The overall human rights situation in Darfur remained volatile. UNAMID documented cases of violations of the right to life, arbitrary arrests and detention and sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. Internally displaced and other vulnerable persons continued to face harassment while conducting their daily livelihood activities. UNAMID documented 84 new cases of human rights violations and abuses involving 192 victims, including 27 children, during the reporting period, compared with 58 cases of human rights violations and abuses, involving 123 victims, including 18 children, during the previous reporting period. Violations of the right to life accounted for 12 cases, involving 18 victims, and violations of the right to physical integrity for 27 cases, involving 60 victims. There were 35 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, in the form of rape and attempted rape, involving 43 victims, including 22 children (with one male minor), and 9 cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, involving 70 victims.

11. The mission confirmed 64 cases of human rights violations and abuses, involving 171 victims, but the remaining 20 cases, involving 21 victims, could not be verified. Of the 84 reported cases, 19 cases, involving 58 victims, were reportedly perpetrated by government security forces and auxiliary groups, and 39 cases, involving 87 victims, were allegedly perpetrated by unidentified armed men. Investigations were reportedly initiated in 32 documented cases, resulting in 12 arrests, highlighting concerns over the lack of efficiency of law enforcement and prosecutorial services in some areas.

12. The mission continued to document incidents of sexual violence and grave violations against children. On 19 December, UNAMID was informed of the alleged gang rape of a female internally displaced person by three Sudan Police personnel while she was in detention at a police cell in Nyala, South Darfur. The response of law enforcement institutions remains deficient, and psychosocial support for survivors was inadequate. The Women's Protection Network reported that two girls aged 12 and 13, and a 22-year-old woman were allegedly gang raped on 16 December 2017 by eight armed men at Kargo, 10 km east of Nertiti. The incident was reported to Sudan Police and one suspect was apprehended and is awaiting prosecution. On 25 December, four armed men in civilian clothes attempted to rape three internally displaced women in Balda area, approximately 7 km north-east of Hamidiya camp for internally displaced persons in Zalingei. On 26 December, four women were severely beaten by three armed militiamen at Dankoj, 40 km north-east of Zalingei.

13. The reporting period witnessed an overall decline in criminal activities. However, with the ongoing harvest season, incidents of crop destruction and related violence persisted in some areas. Internally displaced persons were targeted in 68 criminal incidents, which led to five fatalities. Other civilians were affected by 92 crime-related incidents resulting in 17 fatalities, including cases of murder (14), armed robbery (9), attempted robbery (2), assault/harassment (26), burglary/break-in (4), looting (2), abduction (3), shooting (15), attack/ambush (1), arson (1), livestock theft (13) and others (2). In the previous reporting period, internally displaced persons and other civilians were affected by 123 and 208 criminal incidents, respectively, resulting in the deaths of 8 internally displaced persons and 42 other civilians.

14. Tensions increased in two camps for internally displaced persons in Central Darfur, notably Hasahisa and the Hamidiya camps, near Zalingei. Following a quarrel between members of the Fur internally displaced persons and of the Beni Halba host community in December 2017, the internally displaced persons prevented all Beni Halba from entering the Hasahisa market. On 20 January the two groups engaged in a violent confrontation, which resulted in four internally displaced persons and one Beni Halba being killed and 38 persons being injured. In a separate incident, on 22 January, two internally displaced persons from Hamidiya camp were assaulted by a group of men while conducting livelihood activities outside the camp, and on 31 January there were clashes between internally displaced persons from Hamidiya camp and the Beni Halba, who prevented them from collecting wood in Boronka area (10 km from the camp). Sudan Police created a buffer zone in Hasahisa camp, arrested three suspects, and are working with the community leaders towards a reconciliation initiative.

15. Criminal elements associated with the Sudan Liberation Army/Peace and Development (SLA/PD) continued to harass the internally displaced persons community in Sortony, while provoking clashes with the nomadic tribes in the area. Following the theft, on 6 January, of 14 cattle by SLA/PD from the nomads in the area tensions rose between the nomads and internally displaced persons in Sortony gathering site, where SLA/PD took shelter. Government security personnel intervened on 23 January to arrest those responsible and to collect weapons in the camp, which proceeded without incident. On 30 January, government representatives of Kass

locality, South Darfur, informed the inhabitants of Singita village (19 km south of the UNAMID team site) of the Government's decision to divide farming land between villagers and new settlers, nomads living around the village. The villagers were reportedly requested to vacate their fields or to face forceful vacation by 6 February. The villagers resolved not to move out and nominated a committee to discuss the issue with the Commissioner of Kass locality.

III. Political situation

16. On 31 December, the Sudan National Assembly passed the 2018 budget, which was criticized by many members of the general public, financial experts and opposition leaders. Some Assembly Members voted against the budget proposal or boycotted the voting session, as the budget purportedly neglects the productive sectors and basic services such as agriculture, education and health, allocating a mere 3.65 per cent to education and 2.7 per cent to the health sector, while the defence and security apparatus received a total of 16.37 per cent of the overall budget.

17. The depreciation of the Sudanese pound against the United States dollar, and corresponding increases in the prices of basic commodities, began to negatively affect the lives of the Sudanese population, leading to demonstrations in several states across the country. On 7 January, students took to the streets in El Geneina, West Darfur, damaging some facilities, including the headquarters of the ruling National Congress Party. They were subsequently forcefully dispersed by the Sudan Police and RSF, resulting in the killing of a high school student and five other casualties, including a police officer. On 16 and 17 January, additional protests were organized in Khartoum and, on 31 January, similar demonstrations took place in Khartoum and other cities, including Zalingei, Central Darfur.

18. In Khartoum and Gezira states, in central Sudan, on 5 January, following protests against the recent increases in the prices of basic commodities, the Sudanese authorities launched a campaign of arrests and publication bans. Some opposition political parties supported the protests, calling on the people to take to the streets. On 7 January, the National Intelligence and Security Services ceased publication of six newspapers, most likely in reaction to news reports on price increases and the high cost of living. The Reform Now Movement, led by Ghazi Salah al-Din, criticized the National Intelligence and Security Services for restricting fundamental and press freedoms.

19. On 24 January, the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir formed five presidential councils, namely, the Council of Presidency Affairs, the National Council for Macroeconomics, the National Information Council, the National Council for Foreign Policy and the Unity and Peace Council, to oversee the implementation of the national dialogue recommendations. On 28 January, Reform Now issued a statement denouncing this decision, arguing that it was contrary to the spirit of the National Dialogue, and that it had the potential to weaken the cabinet and undermine the Constitution. The Popular Congress Party expressed similar views. Other opposition parties are concerned that this decision will give excessive executive and legislative powers to the President.

20. At the regional level, improved relations of the Sudan with its neighbours continue to be manifested in decreasing support for the Darfur armed movements. On 5 January, however, on grounds of security concerns over human trafficking, illegal drugs and weapons collection, the Government of the Sudan closed its border with Eritrea and, on the same day, the Sudan recalled its Ambassador to Egypt for consultations. On 28 January, meeting on the sidelines of the African Union Summit, the presidents of Egypt and the Sudan agreed to form a ministerial committee to deal

with all bilateral issues and overcome all obstacles, following recent tensions between the two countries. In a related development, the leaders of Egypt, Ethiopia and the Sudan met on 29 January in a bid to break a deadlock in negotiations over the building of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance dam across the River Nile by Ethiopia. The Joint Political and Security Mechanism of the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan was convened in extraordinary session on 4 February to adopt measures related to the redeployment of forces outside the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone, the beginning of phase one of the border crossing corridors and the activation of the Technical Ad-Hoc Border Committee of the 14-Mile Area.

IV. Humanitarian situation

21. The reporting period witnessed new displacement of families from eastern Jebel Marra, and a number of refugees returning from the Central African Republic. On 2 January, some 129 families from East Jebel Marra locality arrived in Otash internally displaced persons camp near Nyala, South Darfur, fleeing infighting between Gadora and Zanoon SLA/AW factions. The infighting reportedly started in November over control of checkpoints and tax collection from farmers selling their products in Deribat, Kidingeer and Kara. As at the end of December 2017, nearly 1,500 people returned after 10 years from the Central African Republic to Dafag, Radom Locality, South Darfur, with the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Basic services in health, water sanitation and hygiene and education, together with the clearance of unexploded ordnance, are among their most immediate needs.

22. The population in Jebel Marra region remained the most vulnerable in terms of food security and livelihoods, followed by returnees in Um Dukhun, Central Darfur. However, improved access within Jebel Marra in recent months has enabled humanitarian partners to identify critical needs, including access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, as well as major gaps in education and protection. Regarding the outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea, the Federal Ministry of Health reported that, as at 30 December, all five Darfur states were declared free of the disease. There were no reported cases and deaths from acute watery diarrhoea in Darfur during the reporting period, compared with 79 cases and two deaths in the previous reporting period.

23. With regard to food security, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network reported very poor seasonal activities in pastoral and agricultural areas of North Darfur, which could result in increased need for food assistance, agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods support until mid-2018. Land access restrictions, limited agricultural labour opportunities and low asset holdings resulting from the impact of the prevailing insecurity conditions in parts of Jebel Marra continue to limit household productive capacity. Recent increases in commodity prices, such as that of wheat, have negatively affected food security, in particular among vulnerable populations.

V. Operating environment

Attacks and threats of attack targeting African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, United Nations and humanitarian personnel

24. A total of 26 criminal incidents targeting United Nations and humanitarian personnel were reported, compared with 25 in the previous reporting period. The incidents included a gunshot fired by an unidentified person at an observation tower at Nyala "super camp", South Darfur, on 27 December, in which no injury was

reported. Other incidents included a case of robbery and 15 cases of premises intrusion/theft/break-in/attempted theft, mostly in Nyala.

Detention of staff

25. On 21 December, the National Intelligence and Security Services arrested and detained a UNAMID national staff member at the airport in El Geneina, West Darfur. The staff member was released the same day without any charges, and the National Intelligence and Security Services gave no reason for the arrest. On 2 January, at Zalingei market, Central Darfur, Sudan Police personnel assaulted and arrested a UNAMID national staff member over an alleged traffic violation by a member of his family. He was released the same day after a brief hospitalization. On 8 January, in El Geneina, West Darfur, a UNAMID national staff member was arrested and detained by National Intelligence and Security Services personnel over allegations of involvement in a violent anti-government demonstration. The staff member was released on the same day without charges.

Access restrictions

26. Humanitarian access continued to improve across Darfur. There were, however, two incidents of access restriction during the reporting period, in North and South Darfur respectively. In West Darfur, reports indicate increased disruptions by the National Intelligence and Security Services to the activities of humanitarian non-governmental organizations. These include delays in the issuance of permission to carry out assessments, the processing of travel notifications, the purchase of fuel and interference in bidding processes. The humanitarian community continued to advocate for access to locations in the Jebel Marra, such as Boldong, Kutrum and Kwila, which remain inaccessible to the United Nations and partners, while United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights to Golo and Rockero continue.

27. The mission did not record any flight clearance denials. However, the Government delayed approval of the mission's operation of its four Mi-17 military utility helicopters within Darfur until the tactical forward-looking infrared cameras and machine guns were removed from the helicopters. The helicopters are partially operational and can undertake routine logistical tasks.

Visas and customs clearance

28. The Government granted 390 visas for UNAMID staff, representing 68 per cent of visa requests for the period, including 12 for civilian staff, 53 for military personnel, 120 for police personnel, 100 for official visitors, 98 for contractors, 1 for a consultant, and 6 for dependents. A total of 73 visa requests are being processed, while a total of 188 visa requests are pending beyond the normal approval period of 15 days, some since April 2016. These include 95 for contractors, 24 for police, 28 for civilian staff, 27 for military personnel, 11 for United Nations Volunteers, two for official visitors and one for a consultant. For the Human Rights Section, 17 visa applications remain pending, resulting in a vacancy rate of 32 per cent, while the overall vacancy rate for the mission's international civilian staff decreased from 17 per cent to 6 per cent, of which 3 per cent is due to pending visas. The decrease in the vacancy rate is due to the abolishment of posts in accordance with the 2017/18 budget, approved on 23 December 2017.

29. The Government of the Sudan has gradually released food ration containers from Port Sudan. While progress has been recorded in clearing other shipments, currently 36 shipments (compared with 55 shipments during the previous reporting period) of contingent- and United Nations-owned equipment are still pending, two since 2015. UNAMID continued to hold monthly technical-level meetings with

government officials in an effort to resolve various pending issues, including visas and customs clearances. The Government informed the mission that it would receive a communication by February 2018 outlining new procedures that will replace the tax exemption certificate.

VI. Progress towards achievement of the strategic objectives of the mission

Protection of civilians

30. The mission integrated field protection teams conducted a total of 89 missions in North, West, South and Central Darfur from 16 December 2017 to 31 January 2018. In North Darfur, these teams conducted 65 visits to various locations in Korma, Umm Barru, Saraf Omra and Kabkabiyah, where the security situation was generally assessed to be calm, partly owing to the Government disarmament campaign. In Korma and Umm Barru, internally displaced persons complained of being prevented from collecting grass and firewood by nomads, who had also occupied some of their villages. Residents in the villages of Abu Leha, Musbat, Shegue-Karo, Furawiya and Jurajeem, situated 35–68 km from Um Baru, criticized the use of force during the ongoing weapons collection campaign. In West Darfur, the teams visited 15 locations, which consisted of the internally displaced persons camps of Ardamata, Dorti and Hujaj and the villages of Adar, Anjimi, Atiyya, Kuraynik, Abu Suruj, Kurti, Conjoltory, Nurei, Khor Sayal, Hilat Ardeib, Jokhana and Faganta. The security risk level was found to be low.

31. Following reports of livestock rustling and harassment of internally displaced persons at Sortony gathering site by SLA/PD elements, UNAMID held a meeting on 11 January with the national armed forces, internally displaced persons, nomadic community leaders and a SLA/PD representative. The parties concluded that SLA/PD was responsible for the theft. The following day SLA/PD handed over 11 of the 14 missing cattle. The national armed forces officer assured that SLA/PD personnel would soon be moved out of Sortony to prevent tensions between nomadic communities and the internally displaced persons.

32. UNAMID military conducted a total of 12,387 patrols, of which 5,505 were for the protection of civilians (3,760 short range patrols, 323 long range patrols and 1,422 night patrols) and 6,764 for protection of UNAMID personnel and equipment (5,914 routine patrols and 850 logistics and administrative escorts). In total, 2,539 visits to villages and 2,255 visits to internally displaced persons camps were conducted and 428 patrols were conducted in support of firewood collection and farming activities. UNAMID police conducted 1,832 patrols, including 779 confidence-building patrols to internally displaced persons camps, 230 firewood/grass patrols, 73 market patrols, 416 villages patrols, 273 town patrols, 20 area of returns patrols and 41 commercial route patrols to respond to the security needs of the internally displaced persons, in particular women and children engaged in livelihood activities outside their camps. In addition, 308 joint patrols, involving 958 community policing volunteers, were conducted as part of crime prevention initiatives. These patrols helped to monitor security and provided a safe and protective environment in internally displaced persons camps. UNAMID uniformed personnel (military and police) provided 223 escorts to humanitarian partners

33. The mission continued to work with justice and human rights institutions to strengthen their capacities, including on the resolution of community conflict. The mission, in collaboration with the Sudan Judiciary, developed a handbook on relevant civil and criminal procedures and dispute mediation, providing legal guidance to rural court judges for the management of disputes, including over land and other conflict

drivers. The handbook was launched on 17 January, concluding two years of engagement with the judiciary on strengthening the capacity of rural courts. On 24 December, UNAMID, in collaboration with the Public Prosecution Office and the Wali's office in North Darfur successfully intervened to secure the release of 18 juveniles who were being detained under the emergency law. UNAMID further consulted with relevant child welfare agencies regarding psychosocial support for and welfare of the children. Three juveniles who had been sentenced to death and detained with other prisoners in Nyala Central Prison were transferred to Shallah Juvenile Facility in North Darfur upon the mission's intervention.

34. The Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur in El Fasher sentenced two Rizeigat tribe members to 13 years' imprisonment, accusing them of killing eight internally displaced persons and injuring seven others in an attack near the Sortony internally displaced persons gathering site in May 2016. The case, considered to be a precedent, was successfully prosecuted by the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes in Darfur, despite pressure from tribal militia. UNAMID monitored the trial throughout. In another development, on 18 December, a 27-year-old suspect accused of raping a 13-year-old girl was sentenced to death in Nyala. UNAMID is also monitoring the trial in the child court in El Fasher in the case of a national staff member who is accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.

35. To improve security conditions, eight security coordination meetings were held with the participation of the Sudan Police Force, UNAMID police, non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations, representatives of internally displaced persons and community leaders in all five states of Darfur. Five community safety committees were established at Sharib, Adda and Majmere villages in El Geneina, West Darfur, Kalma in Nyala, South Darfur, and Tabaldi village in East Darfur. These meetings have encouraged the community to support the implementation of community policing initiatives and have enhanced safety and security in the internally displaced persons camps. Seven training courses, including on first aid, community policing and criminal investigation, were conducted for 165 male Sudan Police Force officers from 26 December to 1 January at Nyala Sudan Police Force Training Centre, South Darfur, the team site at Kutum, North Darfur and SPF headquarters in El Geneina, West Darfur. A total of 10 training courses on community policing, human rights, sexual and gender-based violence and computer skills were conducted for 179 (92 male and 87 female) internally displaced persons in El Sherif and Otash, South Darfur, Umm Barru, North Darfur and the team site at Masteri, West Darfur. The training courses raised the awareness of the participants on reporting cases to the Sudan Police Force. UNAMID police, at the request of the Sudan Police Force, started an initiative to support the Sudan Police Force in the development of police-related standard operating procedures.

36. UNAMID visited Hamidiya camp for internally displaced persons in Central Darfur to monitor gender and women's protection issues on 19 and 26 December 2017. UNAMID advocated for policy reforms and laws promoting women's rights, during a Darfur-wide advocacy and awareness campaign to end gender-based violence and other violence against women. The mission, in coordination with the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), supported the State Ministries of Social Affairs in conducting campaigns during the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence that brought together over 5,000 people in the five Darfur states. UNAMID organized training sessions for 146 peacekeepers, including 31 women, to strengthen their capacities on gender equality in peacekeeping.

37. UNAMID continued to provide capacity-building support to law enforcement, human rights and transitional justice institutions in order to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights in Darfur. In collaboration with the National

Human Rights Commission, UNAMID conducted two workshops to review the Commission's five-year action plan in Nyala, South Darfur, on 18 December 2017, and in Ed Daein, East Darfur, on 27 December 2017. The workshops focused on key elements of the action plan and the resources required to ensure its successful implementation across Darfur, underscoring the need to provide strategic direction for the National Human Rights Commission. Representatives of the legislative councils, members of the South Darfur Bar Association, judicial officials, civil society groups and native administration officials, participated in both workshops.

38. Explosive ordnance continued to pose a threat, with four incidents reported, in which a total of nine people were injured. UNAMID deployed clearance teams in North, South, West and Central Darfur, which conducted general explosive hazard assessment and disposal operations in 64 villages, addressing 55 hazardous areas and destroying 2,558 items of unexploded ordnance and 44,468 rounds of expired ammunition. UNAMID conducted risk-awareness training that benefited 49,733 individuals: 10,756 men, 5,676 women, 18,995 boys and 14,303 girls. Such activities contributed to a more secure environment for livelihood activities and the safe conduct of mission patrols and humanitarian assistance.

39. UNAMID completed explosive remnants of war clearance and risk education at the site of a government ammunition depot, in Al Matara, Nyala, at which an explosion occurred. Additionally, UNAMID provided technical and logistical support in the form of advice to the Sudan Police Force for the destruction of weapons collected during the ongoing campaign, as well as 50 containers for safe storage.

40. UNAMID, in collaboration with the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission and the United Nations country team, provided logistical support for the setting up of the demobilization camp at the RSF base in Dar al Argam, El Fasher. Between 26 December and 10 January, a total of 494 ex-combatants, including members of breakaway factions during 2017, (85 women and 409 men) out of the planned total of 500 from signatories of the Doha Document, were demobilized. They were all profiled and registered for the reintegration programme and each received a reinsertion package of 1,500 Sudanese pounds from UNAMID and three bags of sorghum from the World Food Programme.

41. During the reporting period, UNAMID trained 611 (544 male and 67 female) personnel, comprising 388 military personnel, 4 civilians and 219 civilian police, on Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, as well as on relevant national and international instruments for protecting children; on the impact of armed conflict on children; on child labour and child trafficking; and on guiding principles and categories of child rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNAMID also delivered 10 training and sensitization activities for 1,122 beneficiaries (544 female and 578 male), including 1,048 internally displaced persons, community leaders, 6 members of the Sudanese Armed Forces, 28 Sudan Police Force members and 40 prison officers, on the impact of armed conflict on children and on juvenile justice.

Support for the Darfur peace process and the implementation of the Doha Document

42. The Darfur peace process remains stalled and no progress has been noted during the reporting period. In the meantime, the mission is engaging the state authorities on the implementation of the outstanding provisions of the Doha Document. On 19 December 2017 and 18 January 2018, UNAMID met the East Darfur High Court Judge to follow up on the concerns of internally displaced persons in El Neem camp about the illegal occupation and misappropriation of their lands. The mission was informed that the "Right to land restitution policy", enacted by the state legislative

council in June 2017, will be implemented in 2018. The policy is aimed at addressing land issues and providing legal assistance to the original landowners, including the opportunity to reclaim and formalize their land ownership rights through formal courts. A successful implementation of this policy would address one of the root causes of the conflict in Darfur. UNAMID was requested to assist with the dissemination of the provisions of the policy among the internally displaced communities.

43. The mission was also informed that the Voluntary Return and Resettlement Commission of West Darfur is mapping areas for the permanent return of internally displaced persons, and in this context 20 development projects are planned for eight localities in the state, including the construction of health centres, schools and police stations.

Mediation of intercommunal violence

44. UNAMID pursued mediation initiatives at the community level. On 19 December 2017, UNAMID conducted a sensitization campaign in Abu Karinka, East Darfur, to reinforce the implementation of an agreement signed between the Berti and the Ma'aliva in April 2017, following violent conflict triggered by the destruction of a farm in Nair area (41 km east of Abu Karinka). No violent incidents have occurred between the two communities since the agreement was signed and displaced families from Nair area have returned to their villages. Leaders of the Ma'aliva and Berti youths appealed to the mission to drill boreholes and rehabilitate existing ones, as well as build health and cultural centres.

45. In support of efforts to mitigate and prevent violence between farmers and nomadic herders during the harvest season, UNAMID conducted dialogue and consultation forums in East, Central, West and North Darfur. Forums were conducted in West Darfur on 18 December in Megmary return area (46 km west of Mornie) and Anjimi return village (29 km north-east of Masteri, in East Darfur on 19 and 20 December, in Yassin (75 km west of Ed Daein) and Muhajeria (84 km north-west of Ed Daein) and in Deleliba village (19 km north-east of El Geneina) in Central Darfur on 19 December. The forums were attended by 243 participants, including 75 women, representing farmers, herders, native administration, returnees, youth, women and internally displaced persons. Their recommendations included the continuation of the weapons collection campaign, the demarcation of migratory routes, capacity-building for the native administration to resolve disputes and enforcement of the rules governing migration and farming, as well as the provision of basic services. Community leaders reported that the dialogue forum for farmers and nomadic herders conducted by the mission in Nurei, West Darfur, in December 2017, resulted in 140 families returning to their village. UNAMID conducted a peaceful coexistence dialogue forum in West Darfur on 31 January in Fufu return area (15 km south of Mornie) and a peace forum in North Darfur on 1 February in Birka village (40 km west of El Fasher town), both events attended by some 1,100 representatives.

VII. Progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the strategic review (S/2017/437)

Implementation of phase one and preparations for phase two

46. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), the first phase of the reconfiguration of UNAMID is now complete. The mission adopted the Jebel Mara Task Force concept of operations on 7 December 2017, its civilian head was appointed on 13 December and its military began operations on 31 January. The

mission has completed the process of identifying civilian staff to be deployed to the Task Force and the deployment is ongoing. The military component is already undertaking the tasks within Task Force areas in Central Darfur. Furthermore, on 21 January, an advance reconnaissance team of the Chinese engineering company arrived in Zalingei to provide support in executing Task Force-related infrastructure work, including the upgrading of the Nertiti-Golo road. On 29 January, UNAMID signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of the Sudan regarding the opening of a temporary operating base in Golo, Central Darfur State, and the land was formally handed over to the mission.

47. On 31 January, phase two of the reconfiguration was initiated. During this phase, a further three infantry battalions will be repatriated from the mission as they hand over the team sites to formed police units. In this context, two infantry battalions (Senegal and Rwanda) are planned to be repatriated in February 2018, while the departure of the third battalion (Ethiopia) has been delayed until the end of June 2018, owing to security concerns in Kalma internally displaced persons camp in South Darfur State. In accordance with the joint assessment by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of phase one of the reconfiguration of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (S/2018/12) and the statement by the President of the Security Council of 31 January 2018 (S/PRST/2018/4), the third battalion will cease operations on 1 June for repatriation by 30 June. The second phase also includes the closure of three military sector headquarters (Sectors East, North and West), leaving the Force with two sectors, the Jebel Marra Task Force, with its headquarters at Zalingei, and the State Security Assistance Force, with its headquarters at Nyala. This is also accompanied by the repatriation of around 100 staff officers and military observers. The police component will operate from three sectors (Sectors Central, North and South) following the merger of Sector East with Sector South and Sector West with Sector Central) by mid-February, and will deploy 22 police officers to Golo in support of operational activities of the newly established temporary operating base.

Civilian staffing review

48. The staffing review, in addition to budgetary decisions by legislative bodies, resulted in a two-phased net reduction of 563 positions, comprising 584 posts abolished, 21 posts established and the nationalization of 26 posts that were approved by the legislative bodies as part of the revised 2017/18 budget. The two-phased reduction led to the abolishment of 405 posts by 31 December 2017 and an additional 158 posts planned by 30 June 2018. The civilian staffing review team proposed a further reduction of 302 posts during 2018–2019, which was subsequently reduced to 293 further to consultation with the mission.

Joint African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur-United Nations country team fundraising strategy for sustaining peace in Darfur

49. The mission and the United Nations country team are in the process of finalizing a joint financing approach for sustaining peace in Darfur. The approach is focusing on the political engagement of the United Nations system, including aid agencies — multilateral, regional and bilateral — and Member States in order to support a successful transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and reduce the likelihood of relapse into conflict. Discussions are based on lessons learned from past experiences and are considering both the issue of programmatic funding in peacekeeping budgets as a transitional measure during the drawdown, as well as voluntary contributions.

VIII. Observations

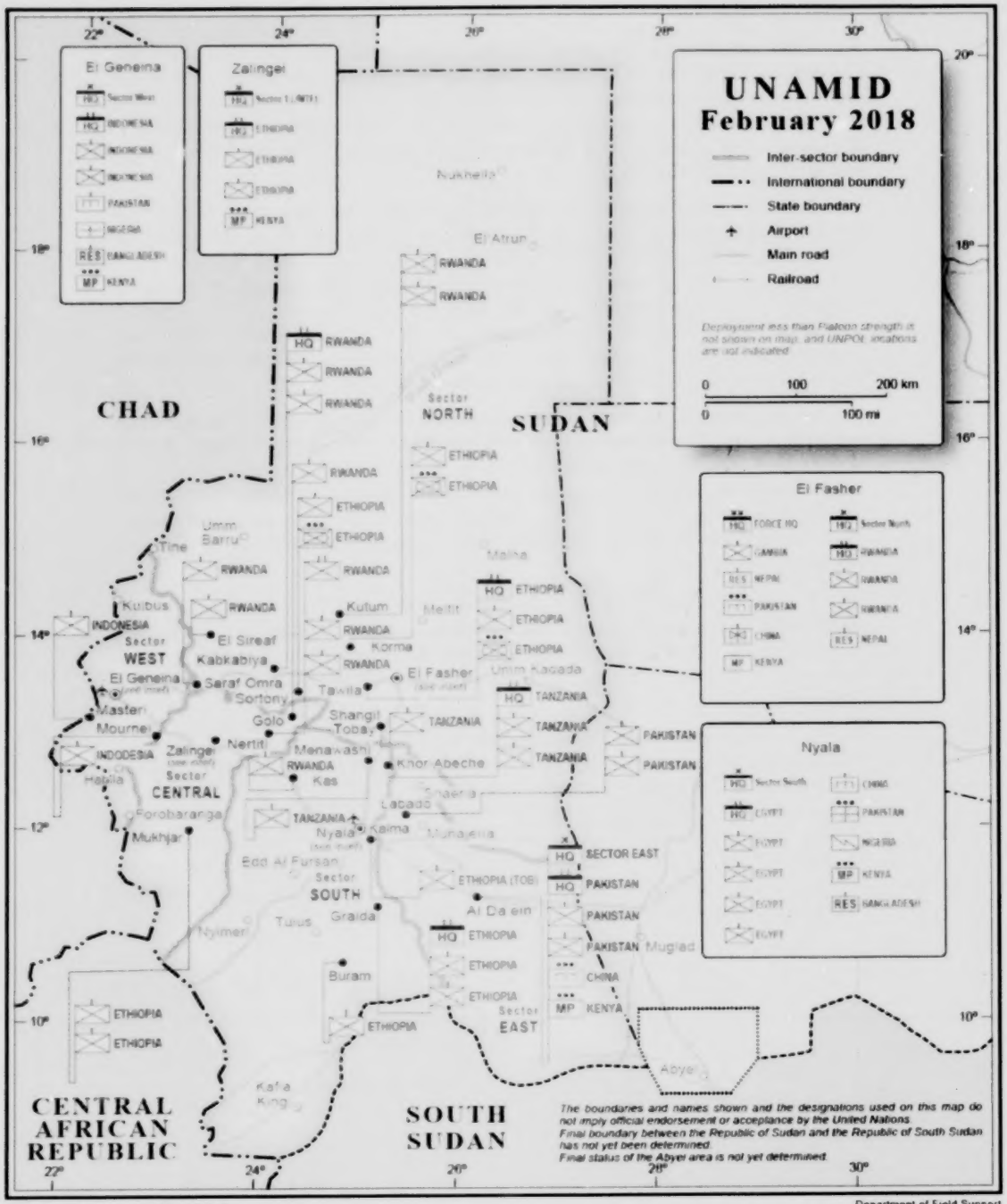
50. I am encouraged by the positive developments in the security environment and the impact of the weapons collection campaign in creating security for all Darfuris and an enabling environment for addressing the concerns of internally displaced persons and finding durable solutions for them. I call upon the Government, similarly, to ensure that the campaign is inclusive and conducted with full respect for the human and legal rights of all citizens.

51. It is regrettable, however, that no tangible progress has been made in finding a comprehensive political solution to the conflict in Darfur. The Doha Document for Peace in Darfur constitutes a viable framework for the peace process in Darfur and I call upon the rebel groups to demonstrate leadership and courage by engaging positively in its implementation for the benefit of the Darfuris. In this regard, I commend the continued efforts made by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, supported by the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative, to bring the parties to the negotiation table.

52. While I applaud the improvements in the security situation, I am concerned that the root causes of the conflict and their attendant consequences remain largely unaddressed. The civilian population, including internally displaced persons in Darfur, are yet to benefit from the political realities and the legislative space of the Doha Document and its provisions on the management of land and other resources. Their engagement in implementing these provisions is key to a lasting peace in Darfur.

53. I commend UNAMID for the timely conclusion of phase one of its reconfiguration. The mission has begun the implementation of phase two, and I thank the Government of the Sudan for its cooperation and support in this complex process, and remain confident of its continued support in the implementation of the mission's mandate.

54. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Joint Special Representative, Jeremiah Nyamane Kingsley Mamabolo, and all the personnel of UNAMID, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian community, who continue to work tirelessly to improve the lives of the people of Darfur. I commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, and the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, as well as the former President of Nigeria, Abdulsalami Abubakar of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, for their steadfast commitment to sustainable peace and stability in the Sudan.


UNAMID
February 2018
Inter-sector boundary
International boundary
State boundary
Airport
Main road
Railroad
Deployment less than Platoon strength is not shown on map, and UNPOL locations are not indicated.
0 100 200 km
0 100 mi
El Geneina
Zalingei
El Fasher
Nyala
CHAD
SUDAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SOUTH SUDAN
Sector WEST
Sector NORTH
Sector CENTRAL
Sector SOUTH
Sector EAST
SECTOR EAST
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

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Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)